

Serial No. 10/635,813

Amdt. Dated 6/22/05

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for managing a plurality of products, comprising:
 - a receiver configured to receive product information including measured values from at least two products in use, wherein the products are of a same type;
 - an average computation unit configured to compute an average of the measured values collected from the ~~same item~~ products in each part of the received product information;
 - a storage unit configured to store a reliability specification value and a reliability specification rewrite condition;
 - a comparator configured to compare the computed average with the reliability specification value and provide a first comparison result; and
 - a rewrite unit configured to rewrite the reliability specification value with the computed average when the first comparison result indicates that the reliability specification rewrite condition is satisfied.

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2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the reliability specification rewrite condition includes a deviation of the computed average from the corresponding reliability specification value at least by a predetermined percentage;

the comparator compares the computed average with a corresponding reliability specification value, wherein the corresponding reliability specification value is either a first corresponding reliability specification value equal to $X(1 + \text{a predetermined value} / 100)$ or a second corresponding reliability specification value equal to $X(1 - \text{the predetermined value} / 100)$, and provides the first comparison result; and

the rewrite unit rewrites the reliability specification value when the first comparison result indicates the computed average being above the first corresponding reliability specification value $X(1 + \text{the predetermined value} / 100)$ or the computed average being below the second corresponding reliability specification value $X(1 - \text{the predetermined value} / 100)$.

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the average computation unit determines further comprising a counter configured to count the number of the products that have transmitted the measured values, wherein:

the storage unit stores a threshold number;

the comparator compares the counted number with the threshold number and provides a second comparison result; and

the rewrite unit rewrites the reliability specification value only when the second comparison result indicates that the counted number is above the threshold number.

4.-5. (Cancelled).

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6. (Currently amended) A method of managing products carried out with an apparatus for receiving product information from the products, comprising:

- receiving product information including measured values from at least two products in use, wherein the products are of a same kind;
- computing an average of the measured values collected from the ~~same-item products~~ in each part of the received product information;
- storing a reliability specification value and a reliability specification rewrite condition;
- comparing the computed average with the reliability specification value and providing a first comparison result; and
- rewriting the stored corresponding reliability specification value with the computed average when the first comparison result indicates that the reliability specification rewrite condition is satisfied.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein:

- the first comparison result is provided by comparing the computed average with a corresponding reliability specification value, wherein the corresponding reliability specification value is either a first corresponding reliability specification value equal to $X(1 + \text{a predetermined value} / 100)$ or a second corresponding reliability specification value equal to $X(1 - \text{a predetermined value} / 100)$; and,
- the rewriting is carried out when the first comparison result indicates the computed average being above the first corresponding reliability specification value $X(1 + \text{the predetermined value} / 100)$ or the computed average being below the second corresponding reliability specification value $X(1 - \text{the predetermined value} / 100)$.

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8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
~~counting~~ determining the number of the products that have transmitted the measured values;

comparing the counted number with a threshold number and providing a second comparison result; and

carrying out the rewriting when the second comparison result indicates that the counted number is above the threshold number.

9.-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) A computer program product for managing a plurality of products, comprising:

instructions configured to receive product information including measured values from at least two products in use, wherein the products are of a same type;

instructions for computing an average of the measured values collected from the ~~same~~ ~~item of each of at least two product information parts received from at least two products~~;

instructions configured to compare the computed average with a reliability specification value stored and provide a first comparison result; and

instructions configured to rewrite the stored reliability specification value with the computed average when the first comparison result indicates that a reliability specification rewrite condition stored is satisfied.

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12. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein:
the instructions configured to compare ~~compares~~ the computed average with a stored reliability specification value, wherein the stored reliability specification value is either a first stored reliability specification value equal to $\times (1 + \text{a predetermined value} / 100)$ or a second stored reliability specification value equal to $\times (1 - \text{the predetermined value} / 100)$, and provide the first comparison result; and
the instructions configured to rewrite ~~rewrites~~ the stored reliability specification value when the first comparison result indicates the computed average being above the first stored reliability specification value $\times (1 + \text{the predetermined value} / 100)$ or the computed average being below the second stored reliability specification value $\times (1 - \text{the predetermined value} / 100)$.

13. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:
instructions configured to ~~count~~ determine the number of the products that have transmitted the measured values; and
instructions configured to compare the counted number with a threshold number stored and provide a second comparison result, wherein:
the instructions configured to rewrite ~~rewrites~~ the stored reliability specification value only when the second comparison result indicates that the counted number is above the threshold number.

14.-15. (Cancelled).